



United States Diplomatic Mission to Nigeria, Public Affairs Section,  
Plot 1075, Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District, Abuja.  
Telephone: 09-461-4000. Website at <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

June 19, 2012  
Abuja, Nigeria

## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate publication*

### 2012 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED

On June 19, 2012 U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton released the Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report in a public event in Washington, D.C.

In the 2012 TIP Report, Nigeria was downgraded from Tier 1 to Tier 2 status because the Government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. While the National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is doing well, it cannot be done without increased support and resources from the Nigerian government. The U.S. continues to support the work of NAPTIP and Nigeria's return to Tier 1 status through continued collaboration and joint training programs.

The Nigerian government has been urged among other remedial measures to ensure the activities of NAPTIP are funded sufficiently, particularly for prosecuting trafficking offenders and providing adequate care for victims; increase investigations and prosecutions of labor trafficking offenses, and convictions and punishments of labor trafficking offenses; and impose adequate sentences on convicted trafficking offenders, including imprisonment when appropriate.

**TIP Report Background:** The U.S. Congress, through its passage of the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended (TVPA), requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual Report to Congress. The goal of this Report is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery. The United States Government approach to combating human trafficking follows the TVPA and the standards set forth in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (commonly known as the "Palermo Protocol"). The TVPA and the Palermo Protocol recognize that the crime of human trafficking includes obtaining or maintaining victims' labor or services (including in the "sex industry") through force, fraud, or coercion, whether overt or through psychological manipulation. Both the TVPA and the Palermo Protocol focus on the exploitation of the victim, and do not require that the victim be moved to be considered trafficked.

Countries determined to be a country of origin, transit, or destination for at least two victims of severe forms of trafficking are included in the Report and assigned to one of three tiers. Countries assessed as fully complying with the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking" set forth in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1. Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those minimum standards are classified as Tier 2. Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance are classified as Tier 3. The TVPA Minimum Standards are generally consistent with the UN TIP Protocol.

The report can be read in full at the U.S. Embassy's website: <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>

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<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>, and [www.usaid.gov/ng](http://www.usaid.gov/ng)



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